

J. Stuart Wells House  
71 Main Street (at corner of Chapin Street),  
Binghamton  
Broome County  
New York

HABS No. NY-5546

HABS  
NY,  
4-BING,  
6-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

## J. STUART WELLS HOUSE

HABS  
NY,  
4-BING,  
6-

Location: 71 Main Street, at corner of Chapin Street,  
Binghamton, Broome County, New York

Present Owner: Elsie A. Parsons

Present Occupant: Same

Present Use: Ernest H. Parsons Funeral Home, Inc.

Brief Statement  
of Significance:

A handsome brick, Victorian mansion built by the leading contractor of Binghamton for his home. Interior woodwork and detailing show the craftsmanship of the carpenters of the period.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners:

1816 - Land owned by David Tupper.

1828 - Lot purchased by Chester Wells, later inherited by his son, J. Stuart Wells. Before 1867, J. Stuart Wells lived on the site in a house later moved across the street.

1870 - J. Stuart Wells moved into his new house; it was inherited by his nephew, also J. Stuart Wells, who resided there until his death.

1942 - March, 1942, property purchased by Ernest and Elsie Parsons.

2. Date of erection: 1867-1870

3. Architect: Isaac G. Perry, well-known Binghamton architect for whom J. Stuart Wells had been the contractor on several projects, including the Sherman Phelps House (HABS NY-5559), Christ Church (HABS NY-5566), and the Perry Block (HABS NY-5443).

4. Original plans, construction, etc.: No plans for the house are known. The barn at the rear was built earlier when the previous house was on this site. Some of the furniture still in the house (such as a set of dining room chairs) are said to have been designed by Wells.

The house has nineteen rooms and seven fireplaces.

5. Builder, suppliers, etc.: J. Stuart Wells was the builder, and much of the interior work and fixtures were made specifically for this house by his sub-contractors, such as the chandeliers and large mantels. The mirrors were imported from Belgium.
  6. Alterations and additions: In 1956 a large room for funeral services was added to the rear and side of the house. The sunporch was reduced in size to allow for a new entrance with porte cochere from the rear parking area. The basement has been remodeled for office and casket display rooms.
- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: None known.
- C. Sources of Information: Interview with Mrs. Ernest Parsons, October 31, 1973.
- D. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: Broome County Historical Society records.

Prepared by Constance Werner Ramirez  
November, 1973

## PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records are part of the documentation of structures in the Southern Tier of New York State, undertaken by HABS in cooperation with the Broome County Historical Society and the Valley Development Foundation, Inc.

The project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. The historical material was prepared by Constance Werner Ramirez, November, 1973. Photographs were taken by Jack E. Boucher in April, 1966. The project was edited for deposit in the Library of Congress by Constance Werner Ramirez, July, 1974.